

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NOUAKC 02371 160720Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 HA-05 SSO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
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FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0217

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOUAKCHOTT 2371

FOR AF/W AND IO

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUN
SUBJECT: WORLD CONFERENCE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIM-
INATION, GENEVA, AUGUST 14-25, 1978

REF: (A) STATE 204786 (B) NOUAKCHOTT 2081 (C) STATE 178242
(D) BAMAKO 3918

1. REFTEL (A) ARRIVED AFTER AUGUST 12 DEPARTURE FOR GENEVA OF LOW
LEVEL GOVERNMENT OF MAURITANIA (GIRM) DELEGATION, HEADED BY "CHEF DU
SERVICE" OF AFRICAN DIVISION.

2. WE BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO EXPLAIN TO THE GIRM THE
REASONS FOR USG ABSENCE FROM THE CONFERENCE, BUT THAT IT WOULD BE
COUNTERPRODUCTIVE TO MAKE THE APPEAL FOR ACTIVE SUPPORT OF OUR
POSITION SUGGESTED IN REFTEL (A). SIMILAR DEMARCHE MADE AT FONMIN
WORKING LEVEL, LESS THAN A MONTH AGO (SEE REFTELS B AND C), PRODUCED
CLEAR EVIDENCE THAT THE NEW GIRM WILL CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN SOLIDARITY
WITH ARAB BROTHERS ON THIS ISSUE. IN OUR VIEW, A REITERATION OF A
SPECIFIC USG REQUEST FOR SUPPORT AT THIS TIME WOULD INVITE MIS-
UNDERSTANDING FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

A. IT COULD BE PERCEIVED AS AN INDICATION OF OUR INSENSITIVITY
TO GIRM'S OWN SERIOUS PROBLEMS AND ITS URGENT NEED FOR ARAB SUPPORT.

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B. EVEN WORSE, IT COULD BE RESENTED AS AN EFFORT ON OUR PART TO
ISOLATE THE GIRM FROM ITS ARAB BROTHERS.

C. OR, PERHAPS THE MOST LIKELY, IT COULD BE INTERPRETED AS A
SPECIAL REQUEST FOR A LARGE FAVOR WHICH IN TURN REQUIRES A QUID
PRO QUO OF EQUAL IMPORTANCE.

3. BEGINNING ON THE VERY MORNING OF THE JULY 10 COUP D'ETAT, THE

NEW GIRM HAS PLEADED FOR USG AND OTHER WESTERN NATION POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SUPPORT FOR ITS EFFORTS TO DISENGAGE ITSELF FROM THE WESTERN SAHARA CONFLICT AND TO PUT ITS FINANCIAL HOUSE IN ORDER. UNLESS, OF COURSE, THE USG HAS SOMETHING SPECIFIC TO OFFER IN RETURN, THIS WOULD BE A SINGULARLY INOPPORTUNE TIME TO REQUEST AN IMPORTANT FAVOR OF THE GIRM.

4. IN FIEW OF THE FOREGOING, WE SUGGEST THE FOLLOWING CHANGES TO THE DEPARTMENT'S TEXT IN THE AIDE MEMOIRE TO BE DELIVERED TO THE GIRM FOREIGN MINISTER:

A. ADD A NEW THIRD SENTENCE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE SECOND SENTENCE ENDING "...IN THIS CONFERENCE." TO READ "WE BELIEVE THAT IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU UNDERSTAND WHY WE HAVE CHOSEN NOT TO PARTICIPATE."

B. DELETE IN ITS ENTIRITY THE EIGHTH SENTENCE BEGINNING WITH "THEREFORE, ON THE EVE OF THE OPENING..." AND ENDING "...AS HAVING SUCH EFFECT."

C. IN THE NEXT FOLLOWING SENTENCE CHANGE THE WORD "APPEAL" TO "HOPE".

5. WE HEARTILY ENDORSE EMBASSIES BAMAKO AND OUAGADOUGOU REQUESTS FOR FRENCH TEXT OF AIDE MEMOIRE AND IN OUR CASE WOULD APPRECIATE INCORPORATION OF THE CHANGES SUGGESTED IN PARA 4 ABOVE. KRYZA

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